



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-03-146

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN RECEIVES DIVERSITY AWARD FROM GOVERNOR HOLDEN

Jefferson City (April 29, 2003)---PSC Chairman Kelvin Simmons has received the Governor's Torch of Excellence Leadership Award for innovative diversity policies and procedures implemented by the Public Service Commission. The award was presented during ceremonies yesterday afternoon at the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City.

Under Chairman Simmons' direction, the Missouri Public Service Commission has recognized the importance of diversity as demonstrated by its specific articulation and inclusion as one of the agency's fundamental values. The PSC has provided diversity training to its staff on a regular basis, as well as included advertising in minority publications in its recruitment procedures. All new PSC employees receive "baseline" diversity training within two weeks of their hire.

In addition, an agency diversity plan was implemented in fiscal year 2003, part-time employment opportunities were created and PSC Staff efforts in outreach and committee activities were increased. As part of its overall commitment to diversity, the Commission has also encouraged its employees to solicit bids from minority vendors during the competitive bid process. State guidelines exist for state agencies regarding the awarding of contracts (or purchases) to minority and women-owned businesses. The Missouri Public Service Commission has continually exceeded, by nearly double, those goals.

"I am very proud of the recent development of a Diversity Plan created specifically for the Public Service Commission," stated Chairman Kelvin Simmons. "This plan provides the Commission with a roadmap and vision for this agency for years to come in the promotion of diversity. I am very pleased with our growing commitment in this vital area and thank Governor Holden for this honor."

About the Award: Each year, an individual within Missouri state government is recognized for demonstrating support, beyond mere requirements, for diversity issues in procurement and/or employment. The recipient of the Leadership Award has implemented efforts emphasizing adherence to a comprehensive diversity program that has been initiated to actively promote diversity. The administrator encourages training, development, and outreach efforts and regularly makes these opportunities available to employees as a means of promoting the state's diversity goals. In addition, this individual displays a commitment to these goals by actively serving on committees and boards which promote diversity in purchasing and employment.